## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 04470 151852Z

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ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00

COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OPIC-03 EUR-12 CIEP-01

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P 151725Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6471

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PASS EXIM FOR CASEY

NEA/AFN PASS AMBASSADOR NEUMANN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP BTIO MO

SUBJECT; EXIM FINANCE FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY

- 1. ON SEPT 12 MINISTER OF COOPERATION BENHIMA CALLED TO SAY GOM LOOKING FOR FINANCE FOR \$3 MILLION STUDY OF IRRIGATION DAM ON OUED GUERRBA IN GHARB VALLEY. DAM WOULD HAVE 2 MILLION CUBIC METER CAPACITY AND IRRIGATE 100,000 HECTARES. MINISTER SAID 9 FIRMS HAVE INDICATED INTEREST, INCLUDING AMERICAN FIRM TAMS.
- 2. BENHIMA SAID GOM PREFERRED TAMS AND INQUIRED WHETHER USAID COULD PROVIDE GRANT TO COVER COSTS OF STUDY. USAID DIRECTOR EXPLAINED DIFFICULTIES, ADDING THAT CONSIDERABLE TIME WOULD IN ANY EVENT BE NEEDED TO REACH DECISION. SUGGESTED POSSIBILITIES OF EXIM FINANCING UNDER STUDY/LOAN PROGRAM.
- 3. MINISTER REPLIED THAT FRANCE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FUNDS IF FRENCH FIRM SELECTED.
- 4. BELIEVE EXIM SHOULD, AFTER CONTACTING TAMS, SEND EARLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 RABAT 04470 151852Z

MESSAGE DIRECT TO BENHIMA AS INDICATION US INTEREST, FOLLOWING

UP RECENT VISIT BY CHAIRMAN CASEY. MESSAGE MIGHT UNDERLINE POSSIBILITY FOLDING STUDY COSTS INTO LATER EQUIPMENT LOAN, ALSO STRESSING COST/QUALITY ASPECTS US EQUIPMENT WHICH COULD RESULT IN STUDY PORTION OF LOAN BEING, IN EFFECT, NON-COST ONCE OVERALL COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF COMPLETED PROJECT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

5. FYI: BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, WE ARE CONFIDENT FRENCH MAKING NO GIFTS. IF GRANT GIVEN FOR PRELIMINARY STUDY, IT WILL BE RECOVERED IN FINAL COSTS. BENHIMA MUST BE FULLY AWARE OF THIS AND PROBABLY MAKING A PITCH. BELIEVE GOOD EXIM FINANCING OFFER IN COOPERATION WITH TAMS COULD WIN BUSINESS. END FYI. COON

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TAGS: BEXP, BTIO, MO
To: STATE

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